

I extend my deepest sympathy to the Phipps' family, and I join my fellow Americans in honoring the life, contributions, and service of Ogden "Dinny" Phipps.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Wade Stevenson, Gideon Missionary Baptist Church, Waukegan, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

God of unity and of peace, we come to this opening session acknowledging that You are the source of life and that each person's life is subject to Your governance.

We bring to this session the diverse concerns of the districts we represent, and in bringing those concerns, we acknowledge that through You we can serve in unity.

As we come to this session and into these Halls, we also acknowledge that through You we can have peace. Let peace rest within these Halls, and let us rest in that peace through the demonstration of our patience and cooperation in serving.

Finally, we pray that our time spent here will be meaningful and that You will bless our service to produce fruit in the lives of those we represent.

We thank You for the opportunity to serve through Your unity as instruments of Your peace.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAWFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. WADE STEVENSON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome my good friend, Pastor Wade Stevenson from Waukegan, Illinois, in Illinois' 10th Congressional District.

For his entire life, Pastor Stevenson has been called to serve others. Pastor Stevenson is the head pastor at Gideon Baptist Church in Waukegan, and at Gideon, he helps to bring God's grace and the word of the Lord to our community.

Pastor Stevenson is the president of the North Shore Baptist Ministers' Alliance and the second vice president of the Lake County Chapter of the NAACP. His numerous public recognitions and appointments reveal a life of public service to the people of our community.

But Pastor Stevenson's role in our community can't be summed up by a list of titles or awards. Since he became pastor of Gideon Baptist Church more than 10 years ago, he has become a beacon of hope for countless people in our community. Pastor Stevenson is one of the first people in our community that people turn to when they are looking for guidance, both spiritual or otherwise.

I have been blessed to work side by side with him to distribute Thanksgiving turkeys to families in need. His dedication has brought joy to countless families around the holidays year in and year out.

It is a great honor to welcome my friend, Pastor Stevenson, to the House of Representatives today, and I am confident that the blessings he brings will serve us well.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

COMMENDING WE THE PEOPLE COURSE

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, 19 students from Valley View High School in my hometown of Jonesboro, Arkansas, have been studying our Nation's constitutional democracy for several months in an intensive course. The course called We the People is taught to students particularly interested in the history and principles of the United States Government.

Last week, those students put their knowledge to the ultimate test in Washington, D.C. They competed in a simulated congressional hearing by evaluating, taking, and defending posi-

tions on a variety of historical and contemporary issues. Our government functions more efficiently when passionate citizens engage in the political and policymaking process, and I am proud that these students are already preparing themselves for that process through their education.

Traci Smith, the group's civics teacher, deserves our thanks and respect for the incredibly important role that she plays in preparing our rising generation. I would also like to applaud the efforts of the We the People Arkansas State coordinator, Jeff Whittingham, associate professor at the University of Central Arkansas who has done such a remarkable job through the years organizing and directing the We the People program for our State.

AUTHORIZING DAVID'S SLING WEAPON SYSTEM

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the discovery of major offshore natural gas deposits 90 miles west of Haifa presents Israel with new opportunities—and new threats.

Developing this resource will reduce Israel's dependence on fuel imports and improve ties with its neighbors through export agreements. However, the offshore platforms will be an attractive target for Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations. A successful attack could be a humanitarian, economic, and environmental disaster.

The United States-Israel Maritime Security Partnership Act would authorize the use of the David's Sling Weapon System to intercept short-range missiles, promote Israel's inclusion in naval exercises, and increase the number of visits by U.S. naval vessels to Israeli ports.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help our ally protect its coastline and offshore infrastructure from attack by cosponsoring this timely legislation.

CELEBRATING 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF HECLA MINING COMPANY

(Mr. LABRADOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Hecla Mining Company.

Hecla was founded in 1891 to acquire and trade mining claims in north Idaho's Silver Valley. Over the years, this mining district has produced 1.2 billion ounces of silver. The company has survived and thrived through world wars and economic depressions, and today Hecla is the Nation's largest primary producer of silver and employs over 1,300 people in my district and throughout the world.